

TALKEETNA SURVEYING

Registered Land Surveyors
Box 160 Talkeetna, Alaska 99676
Phone / Fax : 733-1083

RECEIVED

MAY 08 1998

Local Boundary Commission
DCRA/MRAD

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6 May 1998

Local Boundary Commission Staff
333 W. 4th Ave.
Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501-2341
269-4500
269-4539 FAX

RE: Petition to Incorporate - City of Talkeetna

To the Commission:

I am writing to comment on certain aspects of the Talkeetna Incorporation Petition. I have lived on Second Street (Lot 3,4,5 Block 18) in Talkeetna since 1981 and, like the petitioners, am concerned about our "booming" community. However, I have deep concerns about the efficacy of incorporation as a response to dealing with the negative impacts of this growth, particularly as outlined in the proposed incorporation documents.

My prime concern is the source of funding for the City of Talkeetna and the magnitude of the budget. How can a community of 768 come up with a quarter million dollars a year? Will a 4% sales tax and a 3.5 mil bump in the property taxes do it? Will my small business be subject to a 4% sales tax on the bit of income I derive from the surveying profession? If so, I'm out of business. My property tax assessments have climbed 20% per year for the past three years. I don't see that trend changing, and frankly I'm not really interested in paying additional property taxes either.

One proposed source of funding is a 15% bed tax on lodges with over 50 beds. I don't know of any 50 bed facilities currently in the proposed city limits so there won't be any funds coming from that. I'm sure the measure was primarily introduced as a prophylactic attempt to limit major tourist facilities and I can see the rationale, but it doesn't translate into money, at least not in the foreseeable future.

In order for me to support this incorporation attempt, I need to see the funding coming from the enterprises that are adversely affecting us the most, namely the mega-tour outfits like Princess, Westtours and the rest of them. These massive dumps of humanity that we experience in the summertime are what impacts our "infrastructure" and quality of life the most and the companies that are profiting from this should bear the lion share of the funding for the remediation effort.

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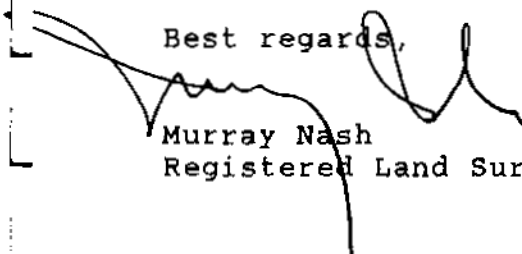
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I'm also concerned about what seems to me an overly generous outlay of cash to the paid personnel of the City of Talkeetna. What are we getting for our \$150,000 worth of employees? I can see a City of Talkeetna whose primary function becomes collecting their quarter million bucks a year . . . Just what we need, another layer of government.

Until these concerns are addressed adequately, I can't support the Incorporation of Talkeetna.

Best regards,



Murray Nash
Registered Land Surveyor